



27 Riverside Road
Riverside, IL 60546

Township Office

Phone: (708) 442-4400
Fax: (708) 447-0302

Website:

www.riversidetownship.org

E-mail:

supervisor@riversidetownship.org

Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Fri 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Assessor's Office

Phone: (708) 447-7700
Fax: (708) 447-6442

E-mail:

assessor@riversidetownship.org

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Community Resource Center

Phone: (708) 853-9578

Office Hours:

Mon, Weds, Thurs
9 am - 11 am & 4 pm - 6 pm

Saturday 9 am - 1 pm

Supervisor

Vera A. Wilt

Clerk

Liane J. Blauw

Assessor

Frances Sitkiewicz

Trustees

Mary Rob Clarke
Michael C. Dropka
Timothy Heilenbach
Tom Lupfer

Riverside Township

WINTER 2020

A Celebration of 125 Years



People gather for the rededication ceremony underway in front of the Town Hall.

On Saturday, November 2, 2019, Riverside Township celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the historic Town Hall building in downtown Riverside, complete with a recreation of some of the original events from the building's dedication in 1894. There was a procession to the building and a Masonic-led ceremony to rededicate the building. A time capsule that was placed behind the building's cornerstone was opened and its contents revealed. Unfortunately, the capsule itself and many objects inside were heavily damaged or did not survive due to years of water damage. Salvageable items from the time capsule are currently on display in the first floor hallway of the Town Hall.

A new, waterproof time capsule is set to be resealed back into the cornerstone this spring, when weather permits. Items included in the new time capsule are a 2019 U.S. Mint coin proof set, a pin commemorating Stephen F. Oakley, 100th Grand Master of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Illinois, business cards of current Elected Officials and of the Free Masons who conducted the rededication, and other small items of memorabilia of the Township.

The Township would also like to congratulate the winners of the Essay/Poetry Contest for the Town Hall's anniversary. Contestants were asked to present to future generations "What Life is Like in Riverside Township, Illinois in 2019." 1st Place was awarded to **Alexandra Kashperovetska**, a 5th grader at Central School, 2nd Place was awarded to **Julius Graham**, a 4th grader at Ames School, and 3rd Place went to **Carly Romero**, a 5th grader at Ames. A laminated copy of their writings and a photo of each student will be included in the new time capsule.



Supervisor Vera Wilt indicates the cornerstone, behind which a time capsule was discovered.

We thank Rick Rovella of Riverside Garage and others who donated their time and effort to make the anniversary event a success. A special "thank you" goes to the late Deputy Fire Chief of Riverside, Bill Sherman. Through his historical knowledge and passion, he was instrumental in the discovery of the original time capsule and a good portion of this event could not have happened without his enthusiastic involvement. Pictures from the event can be seen on the Township's website and video of the rededication ceremony can be viewed online at: www.facebook.com/riversidetownshipll.

Assessor Helps With Senior Exemptions

The start of a new year is a reminder

for seniors to take advantage of property tax savings by renewing & applying for their Senior and Senior Freeze Exemptions. However, this year a change in the property tax law has eliminated the renewal requirement for the Senior Exemption, but kept it for the Senior Freeze. Homeowners who have received the Senior Exemption in the past should have received a postcard in the mail informing them of the new law. Those who have received the Senior Freeze in the past should have received their renewal application in the mail by now. The initial **deadline to renew the Senior Freeze is February 13th**. Please contact the Township Assessor's Office at **(708) 447-7700** if you have not yet received your renewal application.

Exemptions for seniors are available to all homeowners born in, or prior to 1954. The **Senior Exemption** provides tax savings if the homeowner used the property as a principal residence any time during 2019. The **Senior Freeze** provides additional savings if the combined income of all members of the household is less than \$65,000 and if the senior has been an owner/occupant of the property since January 1, 2018. These eligibility requirements are for the 2019 property taxes, which are paid in 2020, and the savings from all exemptions will appear on 2nd installment tax bills. Applications for exemptions can be found on the Township's website or on the Cook County Assessor's website at: www.cookcountyassessor.com.

Tax relief is available for struggling senior citizens through the Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral Program. This program is administered by the State of Illinois and provides loans to seniors whose annual household income is \$55,000 or less. The loans do not have to be repaid until the property is sold or the homeowner dies. An interest rate of 6% per year is charged by the state and the maximum loan is \$5,000 per year. To qualify, homeowners must be at least 65 years old by June 1st of the year in which the application is made. This year, **the deadline for this application is March 1st** and the application can be found online at: www.cookcountytreasurer.com. Also remember, **2020 is a reassessment year!** Watch for notices from the Cook County Assessor's Office in February.



PeopleCare Provides Valuable Services

PeopleCare, Inc. is a non-profit organization located in Riverside and serves the towns of Riverside, North Riverside, Brookfield, Lyons, and La Grange Park. Staffed primarily by dedicated volunteers, PeopleCare's mission is to assist and support the homebound elderly by providing socialization, emotional support, and access to service providers where no one is denied service. PeopleCare assists homebound seniors in remaining as independent as possible by providing instrumental services such as transportation to and from doctor, therapy, legal & financial, and quality of life appointments, along with offering opportunities for socialization, friendly home visits, a voucher taxi program, weekly grocery shopping, and telephone reassurance. Their services are provided free of charge to individuals without financial means and are offered on a sliding scale to those with greater capacity. No one is ever denied service due to a lack of financial resources.



Riverside Township is pleased to have awarded an annual grant to PeopleCare for over 15 years and proudly supports the organization's mission to servicing the elderly. The needs of the community are always growing and grant funds from the Township help PeopleCare be properly responsive to those needs by increasing their socialization opportunities, expanding marketing efforts to reach more seniors, and increasing efforts for volunteer recruitment. To contact PeopleCare, or to find out more information about this essential organization, visit their website at: www.peoplecareinc.org or call them at **(708) 442-1223**.

Shape Your Future: The 2020 Census

Every 10 years, since 1790, the United States has conducted a Census to count the

population of America, as mandated by our Constitution. Conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, data gathered will help to determine the number of seats each state gets in the U.S. House of Representatives and how to redraw congressional and state legislative districts. Federal agencies also use the results of the Census to determine how to appropriately distribute more than \$675 billion in funds each year. By responding to the Census questionnaire, you can ensure that Illinois has a strong voice in Congress and gets its fair share of federal funds and support. At the local level, data from the Census will help communities plan for a variety of residential needs, such as new roads, schools, and emergency services.

The Census questionnaire will include less than a dozen questions and every household will have the opportunity to respond either by mail, phone, or for the first time ever, online. Types of questions asked will be: how many people are living in a household, name(s), gender, age, race, etc. The questionnaire will not ask for an individual's Social Security number, nor will it include any inquiry about a person's immigration or citizenship status. Federal law requires the U.S. Census Bureau to keep all information confidential and prohibits personal data from being published or used in any way other than to produce statistics.



While **April 1st is officially designated as "Census Day"**, the work begins a bit sooner than that. Between **March 12 - 20th**, households can expect an invitation in the mail to respond online to the 2020 Census. From **March 16 - 24th**, a reminder letter to respond will be mailed. If a household hasn't responded by the end of March, then a reminder postcard will be mailed the first week of April. From **April 8 - 16th**, another reminder letter will be mailed along with a paper questionnaire. A final reminder postcard will be mailed **April 20 - 27th** if still no response by then.

Starting in May, Census workers will visit households who haven't yet responded before the end of April. All workers visiting homes will have a valid ID badge with their photo and a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark. The U.S. Census Bureau is also looking to recruit thousands of temporary workers across the country to help make sure the entire population is counted. For more information about the 2020 Census, or to apply for a job with the Census Bureau, visit their website at: www.2020census.gov.

Presentation on Recreational Marijuana

The Riverside Township Mental Health Board will be hosting a **free** presentation regarding "Recreational Marijuana: Public Health and Safety Concerns" on **Saturday, February 8th, at 2:00 pm in the Town Hall auditorium.**



With the recent passage of legislation by the State of Illinois, the marijuana drug is now available to adults for recreational use. There are those proponents who have aggressively advocated for legalization and those who are concerned about the consequences. On the political spectrum, the issue of legalization for recreational use is divisive. Looking at those concerns expressed, this presentation will review and synopsize the public health and safety impact of marijuana in those states that have legalized it. There is also a significant body of medical research that discusses the bio-psycho-social consequences of the use of marijuana.

The program will be presented by Joseph E. Troiani, Ph.D., CADC, an advisor to the Riverside Township Mental Health Board. Dr. Troiani is also an Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology at Adler University and has been in the profession of mental health & substance use treatment for fifty years.



Serving since 1870

Riverside Township

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Township Has New Hours

The Township has changed its office hours, effective the first week of February.

The new hours are as follows:

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday, Closed

Connect with us online!

www.riversidetownship.org

www.facebook.com/riversidetownshipLL

Upcoming Events for Township's Anniversary

The Riverside Township Board is planning a series of events in celebration of the **150th Anniversary** of the Township, which was established on September 24, 1870. The public events planned this year will include educational opportunities, environmental support, services to the community, an opportunity for community organizations to showcase their work and missions, and just some plain old fun & entertainment. A tentative calendar of events includes:

- **Saturday, February 8th at 2:00 pm** - A **free** presentation in the Town Hall auditorium on the public health and safety concerns of recreational marijuana.
- **Wednesday, March 11th at 1:00 pm** - At the Town Hall, the Township Seniors will have a **free** performance by Switchback, an award-winning music duo that draws on traditional Celtic and Americana songs that reflect their Irish heritage and Midwestern roots.
- **Saturday, March 14th TBA** - A presentation of general interest yet to be scheduled in the Town Hall auditorium.
- **Thursday, April 23rd at TBA** - A tentatively scheduled event in Riverside Lawn. There will be a community planting of Milkweed and Sunflower seeds for pollinators, along with a small social to follow.
- **June TBA** - Another document shredding event will be planned for Township residents on a Saturday morning.
- **Saturday, September 19th** - Township Fest! This grand finale to the year's celebration will kick-off with a walk/run event in the morning, then continue on into the afternoon & evening in Guthrie Park with a community celebration showcasing non-profit organizations that work within the Township. The day's festivities include: contests, family activities, music, food & beverages, and a special finale to cap off the night. More details to follow, but for now, **save the date!**

